

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Ptilotus christineae* is synonymous with the previously Presumed Extinct taxon *P. pyramidatus

While curating the *Ptilotus* R.Br. collection at the Western Australian Herbarium, I came across a small line drawing of the Presumed Extinct species *P. pyramidatus* (Moq.) F.Muell. This name is based on a Drummond collection of unknown provenance. It was immediately clear from the habit depicted that it could represent an earlier name for the recently published *P. christineae* R.W.Davis & Tauss. Subsequent examination of type material confirmed that *P. pyramidatus* is conspecific with *P. christineae* and the latter name must therefore be reduced to synonymy. The specimens collected in Perth in late 2010, which formed the basis for the description of *P. christineae*, represent the first collections of *P. pyramidatus* for more than 160 years.

Ptilotus pyramidatus (Moq.) F.Muell., *Fragm.* 6: 230 (1868). *Trichinium pyramidatum* Moq., in A.P. de Candolle, *Prodr.* 13(2): 288 (1849). *Type*: 'In Nova Hollandia (Drummond? n. 221! *ex fristulo mecum comm.*)' [Swan River, Western Australia, *s. dat.*, *J. Drummond* 221] (*holo*: ?P n.v.; *iso*: FI! image seen, K! image seen, MEL!).

Ptilotus christineae R.W.Davis & Tauss, *Nuytsia* 21(3): 98 (2011). *Type*: Kenwick, Western Australia [precise locality withheld for conservation reasons], 23 October 2010, *C. Tauss, K.R. Thiele & R. Davis* CT 4136 (*holo*: PERTH 08247269; *iso*: CANB).

Ptilotus sp. Brixton (C. Tauss 4136), Western Australian Herbarium, in *FloraBase*, <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/> [accessed 4 May 2011].

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